

Milton's War Trophy #9563 - The 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion at the Canal du Nord in September 1918

By Richard Laughton



Lt. G. V. Laughton, M.C.

Most Canadians, like me, probably thought that the armaments that adorn our local parks, cenotaphs and memorials are Canadian.

While researching the background to our "*Milton War Trophy*" I asked numerous friends, Legion Comrades and Veterans about our *Milton Victoria Park War Trophy*. Only one person knew it was of German origin, captured during the Great War (WW1 1914-1919). Specifically, it was captured during the famous period of "*Canada's Hundred Days*", from August 8th to November 11th 1918.

This is the incredible story of the capture of that gun by the 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion on Friday September 27th 1918.

Bill Smy of the [Canadian Expeditionary Force Study Group](#) (CEFSG) has written an excellent summary of history of War Trophies in Canada. For further details on that document, please refer to *Note 1*.

The Milton War Trophy was captured by the 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Canadian Division during "Canada's Hundred Days" ¹. During this period the Canadian Expeditionary Force advanced through the Hindenburg Line to Cambrai, ending the stalemate of "*Trench Warfare*". Specifically the Canadians crossed the Canal du Nord and captured Bourlon Wood, and in doing so captured a German Field Gun #9563, *Milton's War Trophy*.

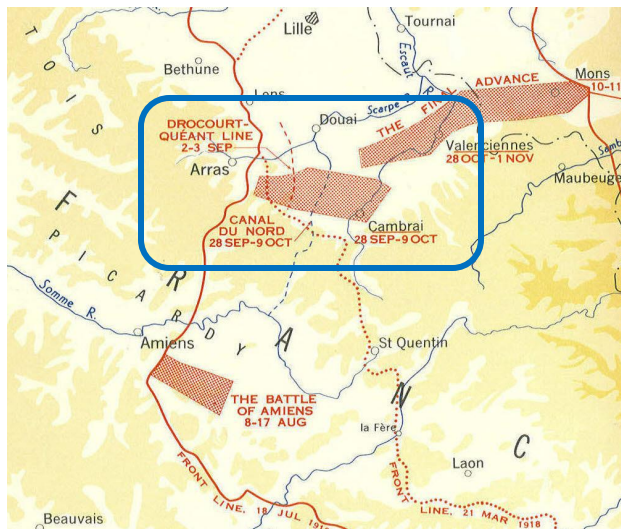


[More pictures of Milton's War Trophy On-Line](#)

The battles that were fought by the Canadians to end the First World War were not inconsequential. As Christie reported ², the final 100 days of the Great War accounted for one-fifth (20 percent) of all Canadian casualties during the war. During the 3 major battles of this period there were 46,000 casualties, including 12,000 dead. The last of these 3 great battles, during which the *Milton War Trophy* was captured, involved an assault by 45,000 Canadians across a 2,300 metre wide gap in the Canal du Nord, attacking German defences on a 13,000 metre wide front. Total casualties during this final battle were 18,000 Canadians killed, wounded and missing.

British Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig writes in his diary of the attack of the British First Army at 5:20 am on September 27, 1918 ³ and how they deceived the German's by crossing the Canal du Nord south of the expected point on the Arras-Cambrai Road. First British Army, yes, but it was the Canadian Corps that masterminded and executed the attack under the leadership of General Sir Arthur Currie ⁴. Haig's plan called for a

joint operation to move against Cambrai by the First and Third British Armies, with General Horne of the First Army to seize Bournon Wood, the high ground overlooking the Canal du Nord. As Nicholson reports, the capture of Bournon Wood was assigned to the Canadian Corps⁵.



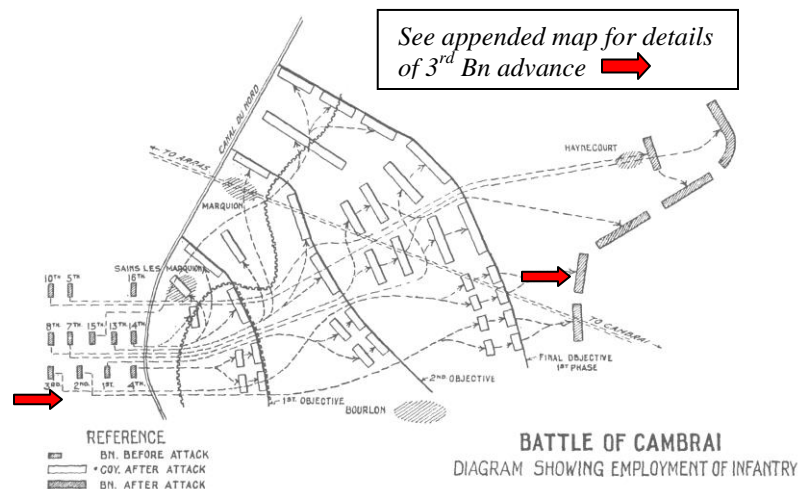
Map 1: Crossing the Canal du Nord with the CEF September – October 1918 (extracted from Nicholson 1962⁵)

(NOTE: larger scale maps are appended)

The Canal du Nord was a formidable obstacle, in an area south of *Sans-lez-Marquion* that had been flooded by the Germans. With construction of the canal halted by the outbreak of the war, some parts were completed and others remained dry. It was in that dry section that the Canadian's chose to cross. The Germans had turned this area into a strong defensive line with heavy wire entanglements and machine gun emplacements. There were no remaining bridges, the dry area where the crossing was to be made was limited and the eastern banks were themselves an obstacle to the advancing Canadians. Bournon Wood, held by the Germans, looked down upon this area.

In his detailed analysis of *Canada's Hundred Days*, Livesay¹ described in detail the formidable area that would have to be taken by the Canadians. The eastern slope of the uncompleted section of the Canal du Nord was 40 to 60 feet in depth which was edged by steep banks and masonry. From the top of the eastern slope of the canal at a 60 metre elevation, the hill sloped steadily back up to the 110 metre crest of Bournon Wood. The topography provided a commanding view of the Canadian assault area and an ideal location for enemy machine guns and artillery. A second heavily wired defensive line existed 200 to 500 yards east of the canal referred to as the Canal du Nord Line. In between was the heavily fortified Marquion Line and back of Bournon Wood, the Marquion Line. Fortified shell holes and wire in between the three trench lines presented the Canadians with a defensive maze that would result in many casualties.

A summary, as well as sketches of the battlefield locations, for the action during the last week of September 1918 is provided by Christie². The 1st and 4th Divisions were the primary units involved in the crossing. It is reported that the 1st Division attack, as depicted in Map 2, went smoothly and all of the objectives were achieved.



Map 2: Employment of 1st Canadian Division (Christie²)

The tasks assigned to the Canadians were but one of three phases of the overall plan, as detailed in the narrative of the 1st Canadian Division ^{1, 9}. Phase 1 would be the storming of the Canal du Nord on the left and the advance on Cambrai. Phase 2 would be the attack to break the Hindenburg Line and outflank the defences at St. Quentin. Phase 3 would be the general attack on the whole front. The Canadian Corps would have primary responsibility for Phase 1, to protect the major British Army attack from the south, by seizing the Canal du Nord and Bourslon Wood then seizing the Scheldt Canal and Sensee River crossings to the east and north of Cambrai.

As early as the evening of September 26th 1918 it is reported by Livesay ¹ that the German defensive artillery batteries were searching out the Canadian Corps – perhaps even Field Gun #9563 is firing? The official history reports that for the previous three weeks the allied observation planes had been spotting the enemy artillery and had identified 105 battery positions. During the attack, the planes identified what enemy batteries were firing, thus allowing the Canadian artillery to concentrate on those areas.

Assignments at the battalion level were given as follows (*in order of priority battle assignments of the Divisions- note that 11th Division is British**):

Division	Battalions	Assignment
4 th	44 th , 46 th 50 th 38 th , 85 th , 87 th , 102 nd Remainder	Lead the attack; capture Canal du Nord German trench line. Continue advance and capture the German Marquion Line. Continue advance and capture Bourslon Village. Advance east of Bourslon and capture German Marquion Line.
1 st	4 th , 14 th 13 th , 1 st 15 th 5 th , 8 th , 10 th	Fan out to the north to capture Sains-lez-Marquions and Marquions. Pass through and capture German Marquion Line. Follow and capture Village of Marquion. Cross Arras-Cambrai Road and drive north to German Marquion Line.
3 rd	All	To follow and attack German defences on the outskirts of Cambrai.
2 nd	All	Held in Reserve.
11 th *	All	Under Currie's command to cover the left flank of the 1 st Division.

The 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion was to cross the Canal du Nord on the left flank of the Canadian Corps on September 27, 1918. Field guns of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade fired point blank into the enemy defences on the east bank of the Canal du Nord, paving the way for the crossing of the 1st Brigade. The 3rd Battalion leap-frogged the 1st Battalion only to land in an area of heavy German resistance. It was here that Lt. G. F. "Bobbie" Kerr single-handedly rushed the German strongpoint, capturing 4 machine guns and 31 prisoners, for which he would be awarded the Victoria Cross.



Library and Archives Canada ⁶
Crossing the Canal du Nord, September 1918

On the opposite side of the Canadians, Livesay ¹ reports that the Germans had placed the 63rd Naval Division and the Prussian Guards Reserve Division. Currie reports that the Canadian Divisional Artilleries were able to deliver an effective barrage and to advance into the captured ground. The 1st Canadian Division was thus able to perform its duties of the First Phase, attacking across a front of 1,100 yards and fanning out to over 6,000 yards.

The Victoria Cross

By all rights, George Kerr should have been in sick bay on the morning of Sept. 27. Nursing an injured arm, the cheery lieutenant with the 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion was in no condition to take part in the assault. But Kerr, who had already earned the Military Medal and the Military Cross, was not one to let a bullet wound stand in the way of battle.

During the Bourlon Wood operations, he “handled his company with great skill and gave timely support by outflanking a machine-gun...impeding the advance,” reads the citation for his VC. Later, near the Arras-Cambrai road, the Canadians were held up by a German strongpoint. Kerr, well ahead of his company, attacked and captured four machine-guns and 31 prisoners. The Toronto Globe and Mail wrote: “This was heroism of the highest order.” (Arthur Bishop ^{7,8})



Photograph and text from the works of Arthur Bishop's series on [Victoria Cross](#) winners in the Great War. Legion Magazine ⁷, VC Heroes ⁸

In order to track down the specific area where the 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion was during the later days of September 1918, reference was made to the War Diary entries of the 1st Canadian Division ⁹, the 1st Brigade of the 1st Division ¹⁰ and finally the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Brigade ¹¹.

The War Diary of the 3rd Infantry Battalion referenced the movement of the captured guns at Hayencourt, France on September 29, 1918. The diary states as follows:

“Bde. Instruct to have the 26 guns captured by the 3rd Cdn. Bn. hauled out to the Arras-Cambrai Road for the M.T. Coy.”

Abbreviations:

Bde. – Brigade

Cdn, Bn. – Canadian Battalion

M.T. Coy – Mechanical Transport Company

We know from the *Report of the Award of War Trophies* ¹² published in 1920 (see *image DC00073*) that the 77 mm Field Gun #9563 was captured on September 27, 1918 on the Arras-Cambrai Road northwest of Raillencourt. The log book also reports that this gun, along with 4 machine guns, was allotted as war trophies to Milton Ontario (see *image DC00261*).

The 3rd Battalion war diary tells of the advance on the D-Q Line (Drocourt-Quéant Line) as early as September 1, 1918. From that date until September 14th the 3rd Bn. was in routine front-line training. On September 15th they moved to the D-Q Line. After establishing their position, they began more intense training for the advance on the Canal du Nord, with Company details set as early as September 20, 1918. The war diary reports on September 27th that there is heavy fighting off the left flank of the Canadian Corps. One has to wonder, were any of those shells from the 77 mm German

Field Gun #9563 that now rests in Victoria Park, Milton? The details of the action are best described by the actual narrative provided in the 3rd Battalion War Diary for September 27, 1918.

B. NARRATIVE

September 26th
7.15 P.M. Battalion left its area in V.15.c. and V.21.a. and moved to Assembly Area.
9.20 P.M. ZERO Hour received from Brigade headquarters - ZERO to be 5.20 A.M. tomorrow.
10.15 P.M. Battalion reported all in the Assembly Area.
12.00 M.N. Two N.J.Os. of "B" Company wounded by enemy shelling in the Assembly Area.

September 27th
5.20 A.M. ZERO Hour, getting light. Very little artillery fire from the enemy.
7.00 A.M. Word received from Lieut. C.J. McGillivray that the attack was progressing favorably and both flanks connected up.
7.30 A.M. Battalion commenced moving forward from Assembly Area.
7.55 A.M. Battalion headquarters moved off.
9.30 A.M. Established Battalion headquarters at W.23.c.80.30.
10.00 A.M. Battalion went through the 1st Battalion at the GREEN LINE. Very heavy machine gun fire.
10.20 A.M. Battalion headquarters moved to W.23.a.20.30.
10.30 A.M. Communication established with advanced Report Centre.
11.00 A.M. Word received that 2nd Battalion are held up on the Right, and would be advanced and relieve the situation.
12.00 Noon Battalion headquarters located at W.23.c.80.20.
12.10 P.M. Word received that we were held up at the railroad. "B" Company sent up two platoons from Support.
12.30 P.M. Advance continuing, enemy retiring over ARRAS-CAMRAI Road.
1.00 P.M. Battalion headquarters located at Y.19.c.20.80.
1.05 P.M. BLUE LINE gained. "B" Company putting out the outpost line. Heavy enemy artillery fire from batteries in front of BLUE LINE.
1.10 P.M. Contact established with both flanks. The enemy fighting a stiff rear-guard action, and his Rear Guard are in the vicinity of X.14.c.
2.00 P.M. 5th and 10th Battalions attacked through our line. Everything appears to be going fine.
4.00 P.M. Battalion echelon arrived at Battalion headquarters. Water and rations sent out to Companies.
4.30 P.M. G.O.C. called at Battalion headquarters.
6.00 P.M. "S.O.S." sent up on our right flank. An Officer from the 8th Battalion reports that the enemy are counter-attacking. Very little artillery fire.
10.00 P.M. Orders received from Brigade to swing our outpost line to the right, touching up with the 8th Battalion on the Left and with the 2nd Battalion on the Right.
11.00 P.M. 6" Stokes Newton Officer called at Battalion headquarters and was sent with his gun to "B" COMPANY.
12.00 M.N. Everything quiet.

In the "Observations" reported in the war diary it states that:

"The formation adopted by the Battalion in the advance was two Companies attacking with two platoons from each Company in the first wave, and two platoons in the second wave, one Company following in Support of the Right Company and one Company in Support of the Left Company. When the objective was gained, the left Supporting Company passed through the attacking Companies and established an outpost line, the right supporting company re-assembled and came into Battalion Reserve."

The war diary reports on the Total Casualties during this specific attack as follows:

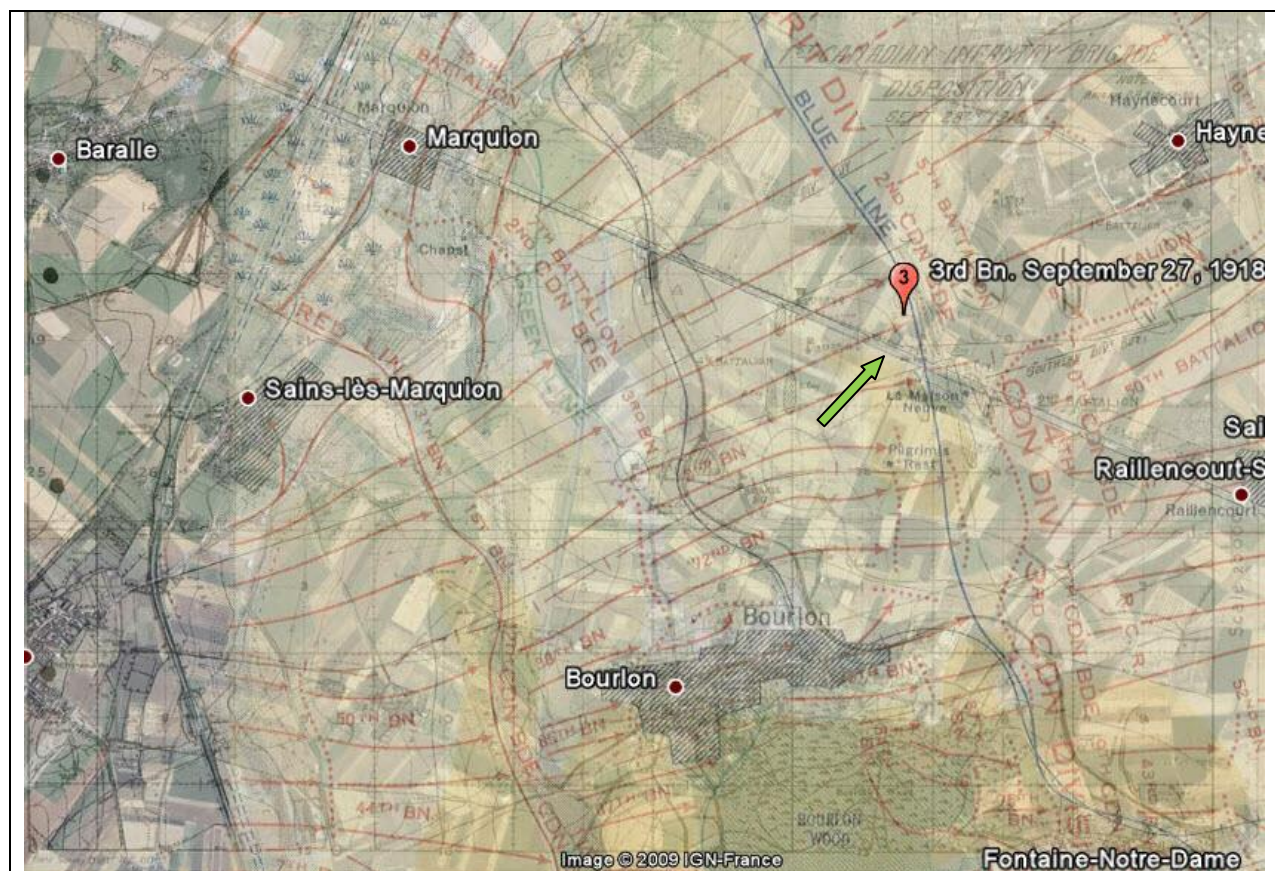
1	Officer Killed
7	Officers Wounded
17	Other Ranks Killed
12	Other Ranks Missing
128	Other Ranks Wounded

Total Captures for the period, which included Field Gun #9563 were reported as:

17	.77 Mm. Guns
3	5.9 Howitzers
1	6" Howitzer
4	4.2 Howitzers
1	4.1 Howitzer
2	Medium Trench Mortars

War Diary 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion
 Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa
<http://data2.collectionscanada.ca/e/e044/e001077430.jpg>

Reading further into the War Diary of the action with the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade ¹⁰ (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Infantry Battalions and 1st Trench Mortar Battery) we find that on September 25, 1918 the 3rd Infantry Battalion moved forward and on September 26th was in reserve at trench map coordinates D.5.a, moving on September 27th into X.13.d ¹⁰.



Map 3: Triple Overlay of Trench Map, Nicholson Map 13 and Google Earth Satellite to show the placement of the 3rd Infantry Battalion on September 27-28, 1918 by Laughton ¹³.

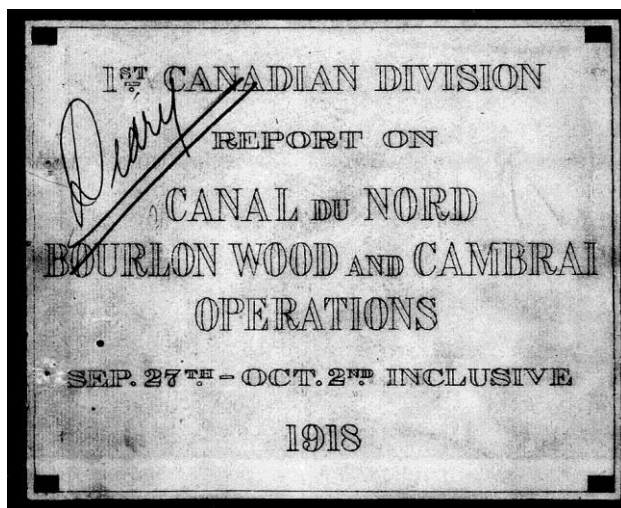
Arras-Cambrai Road marked by arrow: 

The trench map coordinates, as illustrated in **MAP 4** provide standard reference points so we can pinpoint where the 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion was located when it took control of the German 77 mm Field Gun, the Milton War Trophy.

Apply history and modern day mapping techniques, as illustrated in **MAP 5** you can see where this area is relative to modern day France. Here the complete trench map used to extract Map 1 was overlaid on a Google Satellite image of that area of France. The towns, roads, railways and canals provide a geographic reference to create the overlay.

The movement of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion across the Canal du Nord, north of the Bourlon Woods, towards Hayencourt (as seen on Map 4) is shown on **MAP 6**, an extract of the Nicholson map of the Canal du Nord and Cambrai ⁵.

The War Diary of the 1st Canadian Division ⁹ contains a complete narrative of the operations at the Canal du Nord, Bourlon Wood and Cambrai from September 27th to October 2nd inclusive.



War Diary – 1st Canadian Division, September 1918

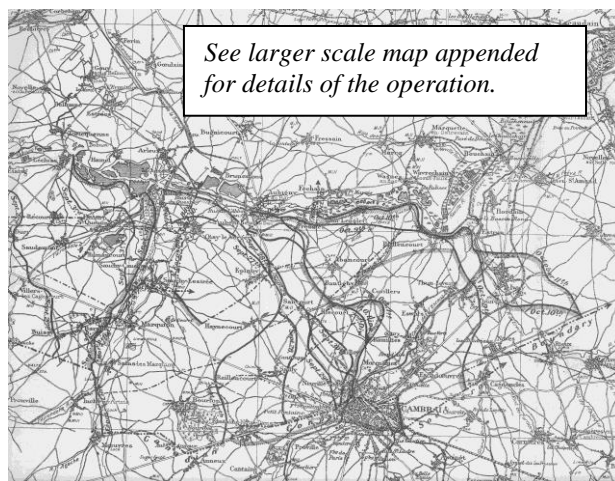
Copies of specific actions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the Great War are often found within the War Diaries of the Divisions, Brigades and Battalions. All of this information is available to the public “free of charge” on the web site of [Library and Archives Canada](http://www.libraryandarchives.ca) (LAC).

Marc Leroux of the [Canadian Great War Project](http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com) has created an extraction program that allows you to locate and assemble complete files from this LAC database. That program was used for all of the war diaries referenced in this review.

The war diary account of the 1st Canadian Division⁹ supports the statement of Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig³ that this was an attack of the forces of the British Empire, consisting of the 1st, 3rd and 4th Armies. The war diary goes further to state that the attack of the 1st British Army “*would be carried out by the Canadian Corps*”. At the meeting of the Allies on September 16, 1918 it was agreed that the “*1st Army was to carry out an attack to capture Bourlon Wood and the high ground in that vicinity – to form a defensive left flank to the attack of the 3rd and 4th Armies*”. There was considerable reliance on the 1st Canadian Division of the Canadian Corps, as the Corps Commander (General Sir Arthur Currie) is reported to have said that “*the 1st Canadian Division must push on to beyond Hayencourt on Z-day, whether or not the 4th Canadian Division has left the BLUE LINE*”.

There is no doubt from the war diary reports that there were concerns about the success of the attack. In describing the MAIN OPERATION – SEPTEMBER 27th, 1918 the war diary noted:

“the passage of the whole Division through a narrow defile was the chief anxiety to the Divisional Commander, as it was realized that a heavy concentration of artillery and gas in the congested forward assembly area prior to ZERO hour would seriously affect the whole operation”.



Map 4: Livesay¹ Extract of Map of Operations

It was known that the Canal du Nord was heavily defended by wire, field artillery (the “*Milton War Trophy*”) and machine guns. Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Rogers, DSO MC was tasked with taking the 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion on this perilous task on the left frontage.

When the attack went forward in the dark at 0520 hours on September 27th 1918 it was accompanied by an intense Canadian artillery barrage. The war diary reports that the enemy barrage, perhaps some shells from the *Milton War Trophy*, fell behind the

assembly area of the 4th Canadian Battalion in the Village of Inchy and on the Buissy Switch. Within the hour, German prisoners were being brought back to the Canadian lines, reporting that the Canadian Troops were over the Canal du Nord and that all of their comrades had been killed. Meanwhile the 1st Battery of the Canadian Field Artillery fired 50 rounds at point-blank-range into enemy positions on the bank of the Canal du Nord (*Note: that normally implies firing over open sights*).

The 3rd Canadian Battalion, the unit that captured the *Milton War Trophy*, met with some resistance as they leap-frogged the 1st Battalion, as they were held up soon after the “jump off” by stiff resistance in the vicinity of the railroad (the War Diary reports this at W.30.a&c). By noon that day, the Canadian Battalions had driven the enemy troops from the railway and captured the Third Objective at the BLUE LINE (see Map 6). During this period the war diary reports that the 3rd Battalion received significant support from three Batteries, No. 1 Company, 1st Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps (CMGC). Although there is no direct reference to the *Milton War Trophy* it is stated that the CMGC units fired relentlessly at an enemy field gun that was firing point blank at the Canadian Infantry. The specific area, and perhaps the location of the *Milton War Trophy*, is reported at W.30.a and W.29.b, as the BLUE LINE was captured along the Arras-Cambrai Road (see MAP 4). That is the precise location noted in the “*Report on the Award of War Trophies*”¹², where the Milton War Trophy was captured.

The 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade was also supported by two pairs of Mark IV tanks, which were reported to render valuable service during the advance through the wire.

It was reported in the Divisional War Diary that “*on the whole the operations of the Canadian Corps on 27th September 1918 were very successful*”. The 1st Canadian Division, of which the 3rd Battalion was part, is reported to have “*not only captured all objectives in the First Phase, but had, in addition carried out the Second Phase, and all high ground within the Divisional Boundaries was captured*”. This was a remarkable feat and one that needs to be remembered by everyone who stands and looks at the 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion’s *War Trophy* in Milton’s Victoria Park. An image of a large steel field gun may quickly change to an image of incredible Canadian courage, against incredible odds, more than 90 years ago.

When the main battle had ended on October 3rd 1918, Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie, Commanding Canadian Corps, reported on the actions of the previous 5 days. A few comments (extracted) from those words say much about the heroics of the Canadian Corps:

In your advance you have overcome the very formidable obstacle of the Canal du Nord; you carried by assault the fortified Bourlon Wood, the Marcoing Line and seized the high ground extending along the Douai-Cambrai Road.

How arduous was the task assigned to you, and how valuable to the enemy was the ground that you captured ... twelve enemy divisions, supported by eleven independent machine gun units, have been met and defeated by the Canadian Corps.

You have taken in this battle over seven thousand prisoners and two hundred Field and Heavy guns, thus bringing the total captures of the Canadian Corps

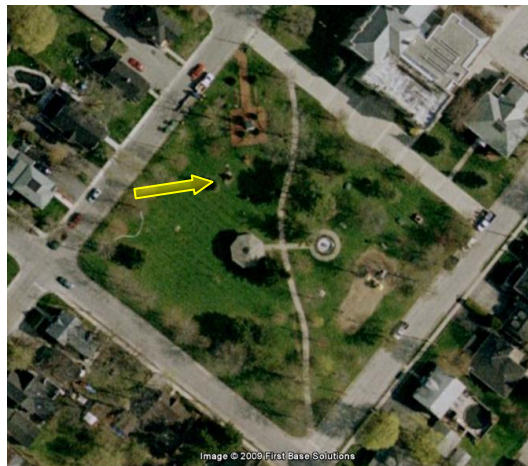
since the 8th of August of this year to twenty-eight thousand prisoners, five hundred guns, over three thousand machine guns, and a large amount of stores of all kinds.

The casualty reports of the 1st Canadian Division ⁹ tell the true story of what happened from September 27th to October 5th 1918. In total, 200 *Officers* and 3,764 *Other Ranks* were killed, wounded or missing at the end of the battle. On September 21, 1918 the Divisional Strength was 530 Officers and 13,153 Other Ranks, of which 419 Officers and 11,861 Other Ranks formed the “Fighting Strength”. That demonstrates a calculated divisional casualty rate of 48 percent for Officers and 32 percent for Other Ranks.

Casualties for the 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion were calculated the Divisional War Diary Records as follows:

3rd Battalion Records	Officers #	Other Ranks #	Officers %	Other Ranks %
Total Strength	40	973	-	-
Fighting Strength	33	964	83	99
Killed	2	20	6	2
Wounded	9	150	3	16
Missing	0	13	0	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>183</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>19</i>

Those are important numbers to keep in mind for each visitor that stands in Milton’s Victoria Park and gazes at Milton War Trophy #9563.



**Google Image of Milton’s War Trophy
Victoria Park** 



Front View



Serial Number



Rear View

Click on any image for the full scale picture.

The *Milton War Trophy* is clearly visible even in an image from the Google Earth Satellite. To view it live, use these GPS co-ordinates: 43°30'36.59"N 79°53'3.89"W

Alternatively, with go to the *Google Earth Community* and see the text, photographs and satellite images: [Milton War Trophy A Google Earth Tour](#)

As Christie ² told us, that this was the last major battle fought by the Canadians in the Great War, so the Milton War Trophy has special meaning to all Canadians, not just the residents of Milton, Ontario. It was not an easy battle, as the 4 Divisions of the Canadian Corps (45,000 men) battled 10 German Divisions and 13 Specialist Machine Gun Companies. In September 1918 the Canadians were to capture the Canal du Nord, most of which was impassable, and was entrenched by the Germans on the

eastern side. Of the 6,400 metres of the Canadian line, some 3,800 metres was a flooded bog. The Canadians would attempt to cross the 2,300 metre stretch that was dry, without being detected prior to the launch of the offensive. From September 27th until October 5th, the Canadian onslaught against the Germans was relentless. That was “*Our Canadians*” then and that is how we should remember them now – “*Keep the Flame Alive*”.

The Milton War Trophy was captured in this photograph held in the Archives of the [Milton Historical Society](#). This image depicts the Soldiers’ Reception in the Town of Milton in September 1919, a year after the capture of the German gun at the Battle of Cambrai. The parade is referenced in the *Milton Canadian Champion* newspaper on September 18, 1919.



References:

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2. Christie, N. M. 2004 (revised). [The Canadians at Cambrai and the Canal du Nord: September 27th – October 1st, 1918](#). CEF Books, King & Empire Series, Volume VI, Ottawa, Canada.
3. Sheffield, G. and Boue, J.(ed). 2005. [Douglas Haig: War Diaries and Letters 1914-1918](#). The Orion Publishing Group Ltd., London, England.
4. Humphries, M. O. (ed). 2008. [The Selected Papers of Sir Arthur Currie – Diaries, Letters, and Report to the Ministry, 1917-1933](#). Wilfrid Laurier University Press, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.
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6. Library and Archives Canada. [ArchivaNet: On-Line Research Tool \(photographs\)](#).
7. Bishop, A. 2006. [Canada and the Victoria Cross – Securing Victory](#). Legion Magazine, Canvet Publications, Kanata, Canada.
8. Bishop, A. 1995. *True Canadian Victoria Cross Heroes*. Key Porter Books Limited. Toronto, Canada.

9. Library and Archives Canada. [War Diary of the 1st Canadian Division](#). September 1918.
10. Library and Archives Canada. [War Diary of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade](#). September 1918.
11. Library and Archives Canada. [War Diary of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion](#). September 1918.
12. Canada. 1920. [Report on the Award of War Trophies](#).
13. Laughton, R. V. 2009. [Triple Map Overlay of the Area of Bourslon Wood in September 1918](#). Google Earth Community.
14. Cook, T. 2007. [At the Sharp End – Canadians Fighting the Great War, 1914-1916, Volume 1](#). Penguin Group, Toronto, Ontario Canada.

Inserted and Appended Maps:

These are larger scale versions of the maps inserted within the article which has been “marked up” by the author (R. Laughton) to highlight specific areas or points of interest.

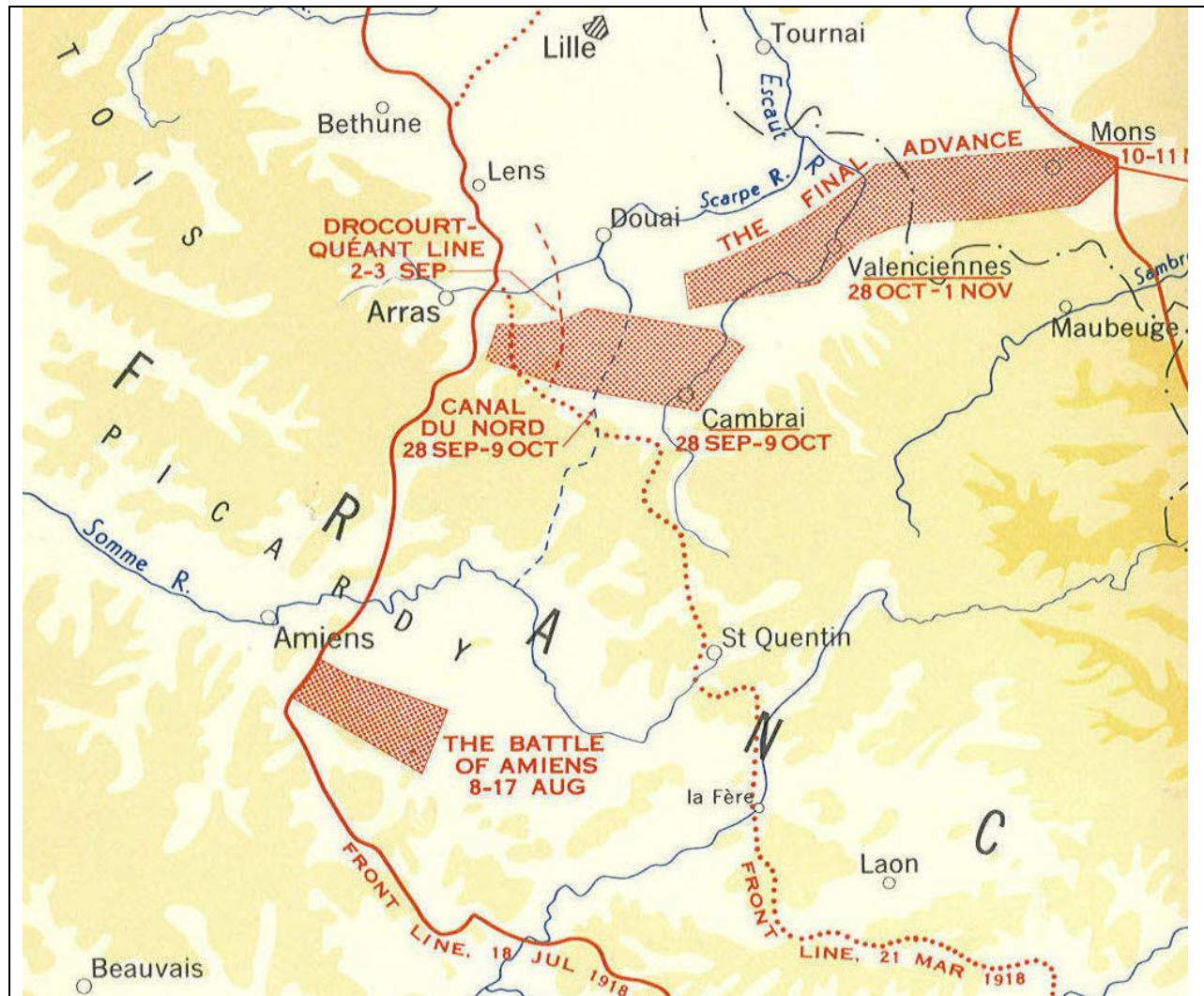
1. Extract of Operations of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, France and Belgium 1918 from Nicholson ⁵.
2. Employment of the Infantry of the 1st Canadian Division at the Battle of Cambrai from Christie ².
3. Overlay Map of and extract of Nicholson ⁵ Map 13 (Article Map 7) on modern day France from Google Earth.
4. Extract of Operational Map from Livesay ¹ showing advances of divisions with the Canadian Corps from August 26th to October 11th 1918.
5. Trench Map Extract of 3rd Battalion location taken from the War Diary of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade for September 28, 1918.
6. Google Overlay Image of the Complete Trench Map of September 28, 1918 showing where the area would be located in modern day France.
7. Extract of Nicholson Map 13, The Canal du Nord and Cambrai for the period of 27th to October 11th, 1918.

Notes: (updated January 2013)

1. A copy of all the “*Laughton Articles & Essays*” are now available of the Laughton web site at: <http://laughton.ca/index.php/publications/ww1/>
2. For a web based (hyperlinked) version of this particular article, please go to <http://laughton.ca/publications/ww1/pub4.pdf> . That version provides links to the maps, war diaries and other Internet Resources that are used in the article.
3. Additional information, such as larger scale maps and war diary extracts, that was compiled for the Laughton publications are stored on the MediaFire site at this location: <http://tinyurl.com/laughton-publications>
4. Flip-view copies of the Laughton publications are published in electronic PDF format on the ISSUU self-publishing web site.
All articles: <http://issuu.com/cefmatrix/docs>
This publication: <http://issuu.com/cefmatrix/docs/miltonswartrophy>
5. An archive of the publication is held by Archive.org at:
<http://archive.org/details/MiltonsWarTrophy9563-The3rdCanadianInfantryBattalionAtTheCanalDu>
6. This article was first published electronically in July 2009.
7. Bill Smy of the CEF Study Group prepared a summary document on War Trophies that provides details on the allocation of these armaments to groups, museums and communities across Canada. This has now been added to the CEFSG Matrix as the “[War Trophy Utility](#)”.
8. Information contained herein may be used by others to enhance the understanding of the roll Canada played in the Great War of 1914-1921 and to ensure that the men and women who served will be remembered for eternity. The use of this publication for commercial gain is strictly prohibited without the author’s written permission.
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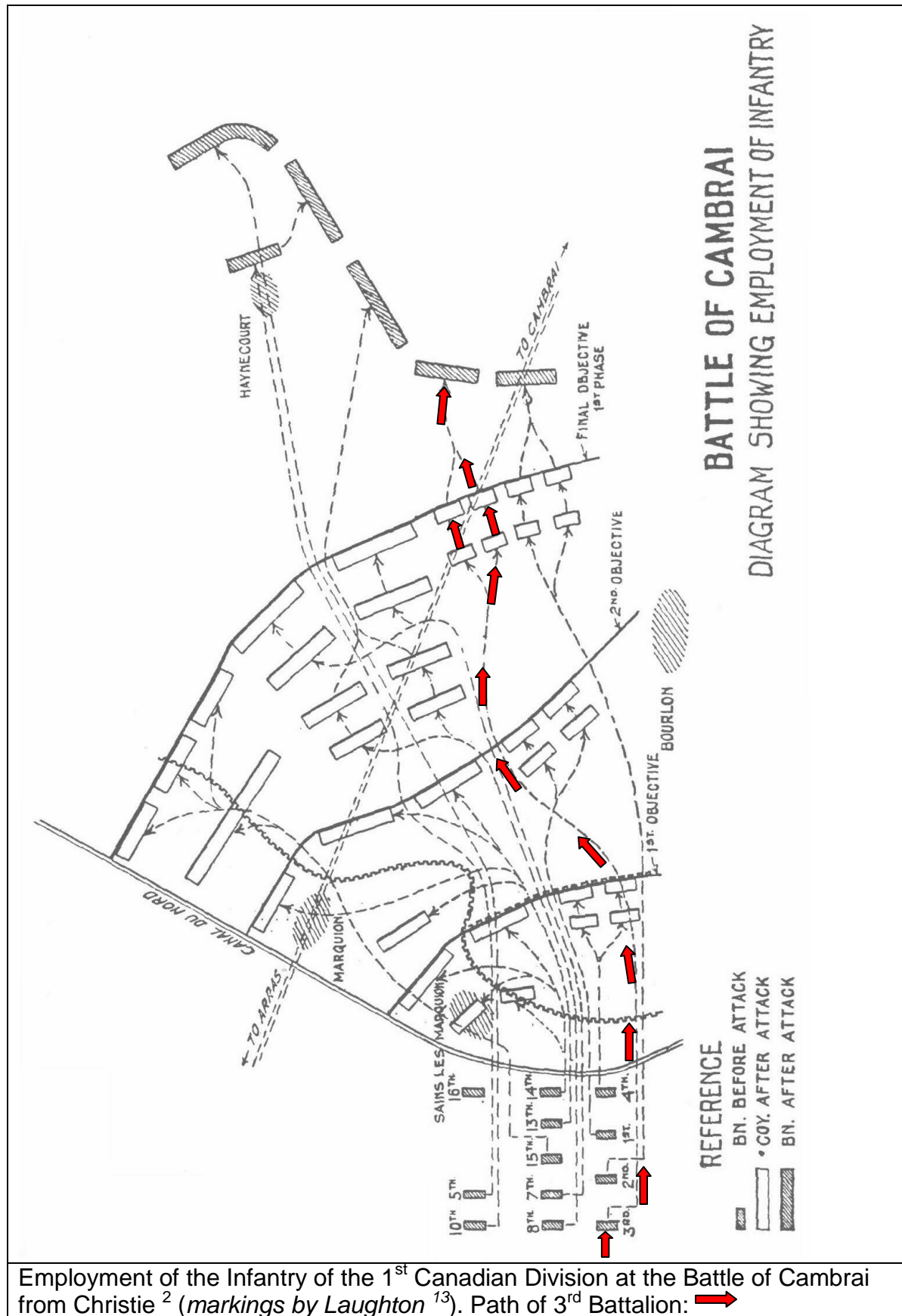
Richard Laughton is the grandson of two Great War Soldiers, each of whom served in the CEF and BEF. They are responsible for his interest in Great War Research. A scientist-engineer by trade, Richard now dedicates most of his research time to the Great War Matrix Project and by helping other researchers “Keep the Flame Alive”.

MAP 1

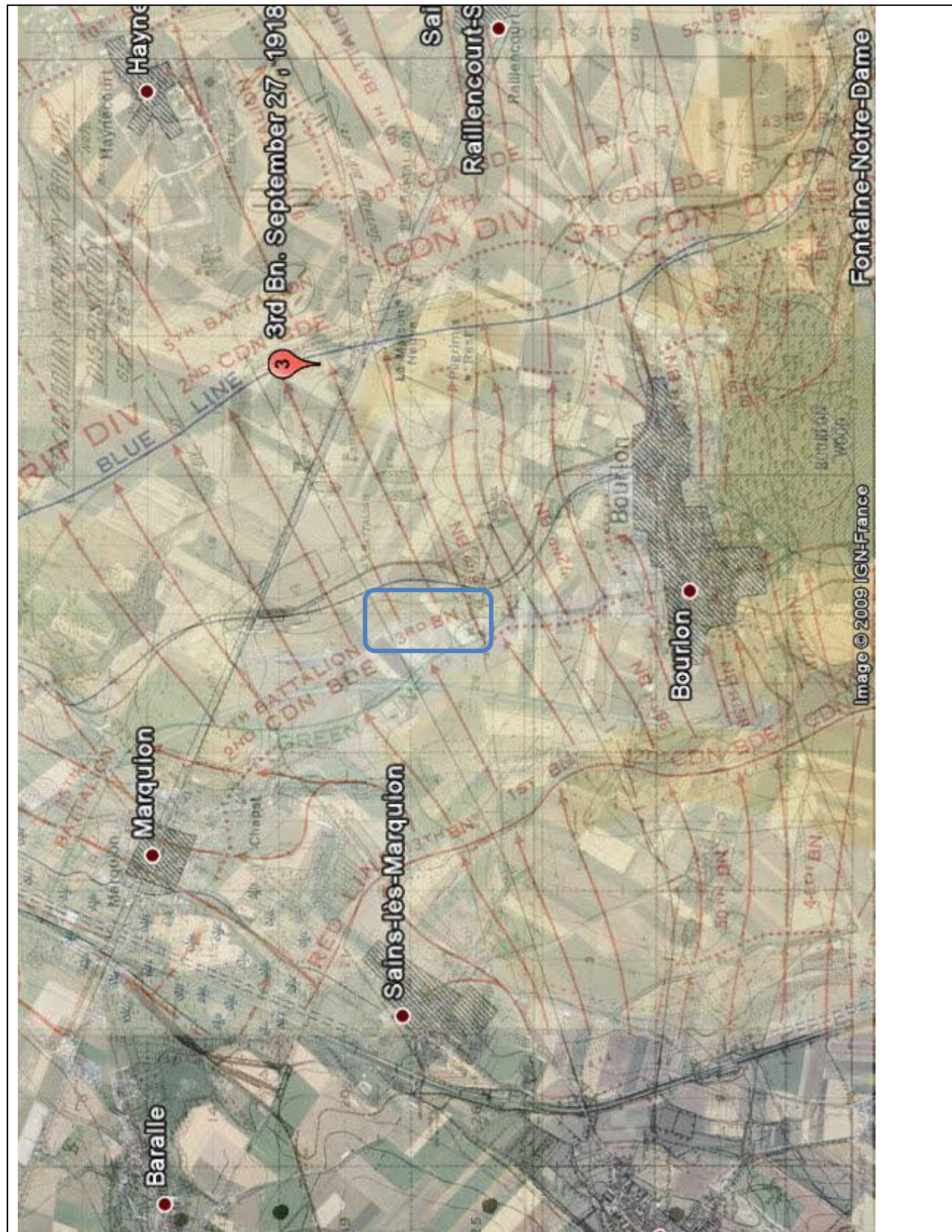


Extract of Operations of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, France and Belgium 1918 from Nicholson⁵.

MAP 2

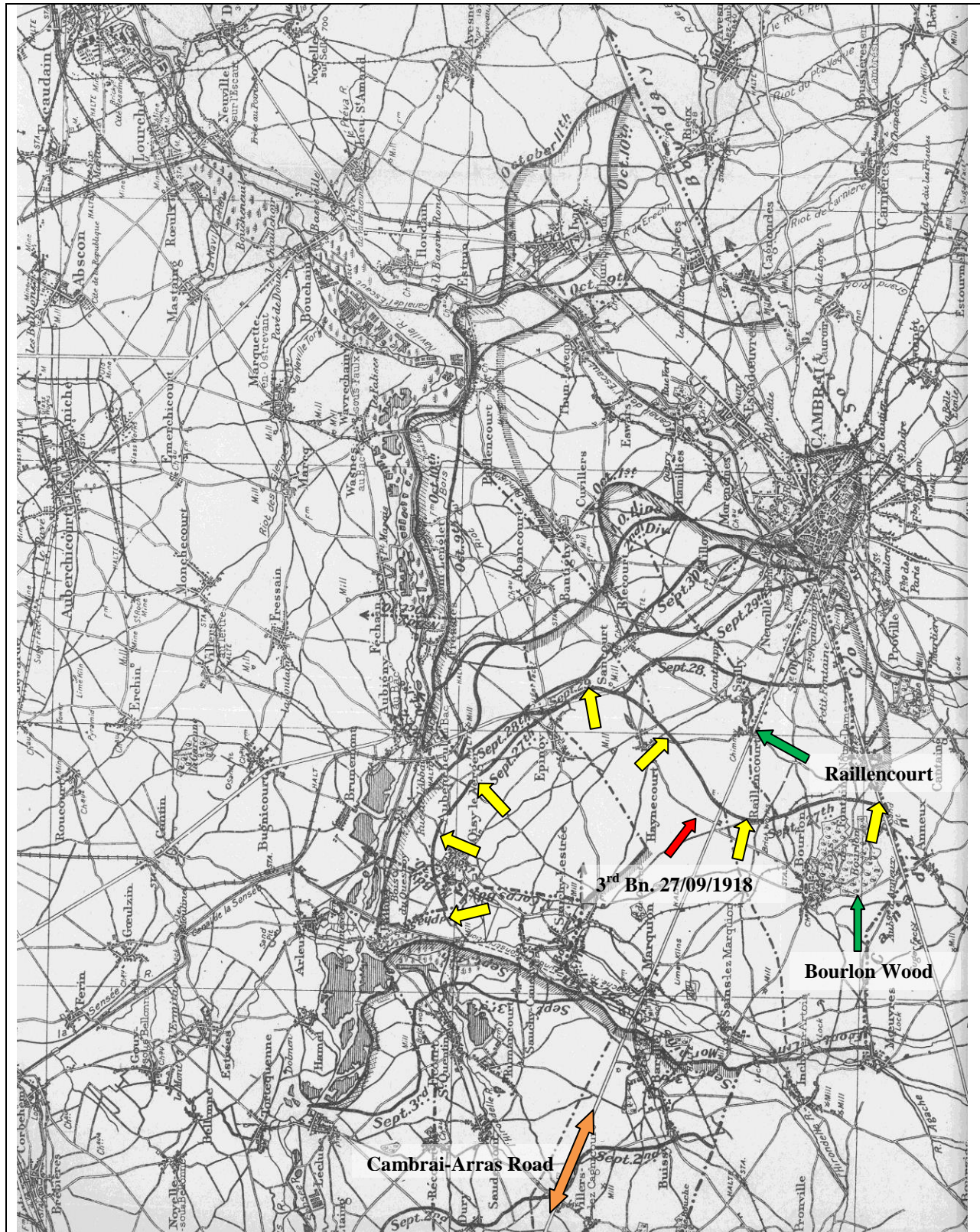


MAP 3



Overlay Map of and extract of Nicholson⁵ Map 13 (Article Map 7) on modern day France from Google Earth by Laughton¹³.

MAP 4



Extract of Operational Map from Livesay¹ (markings by Laughton¹³).

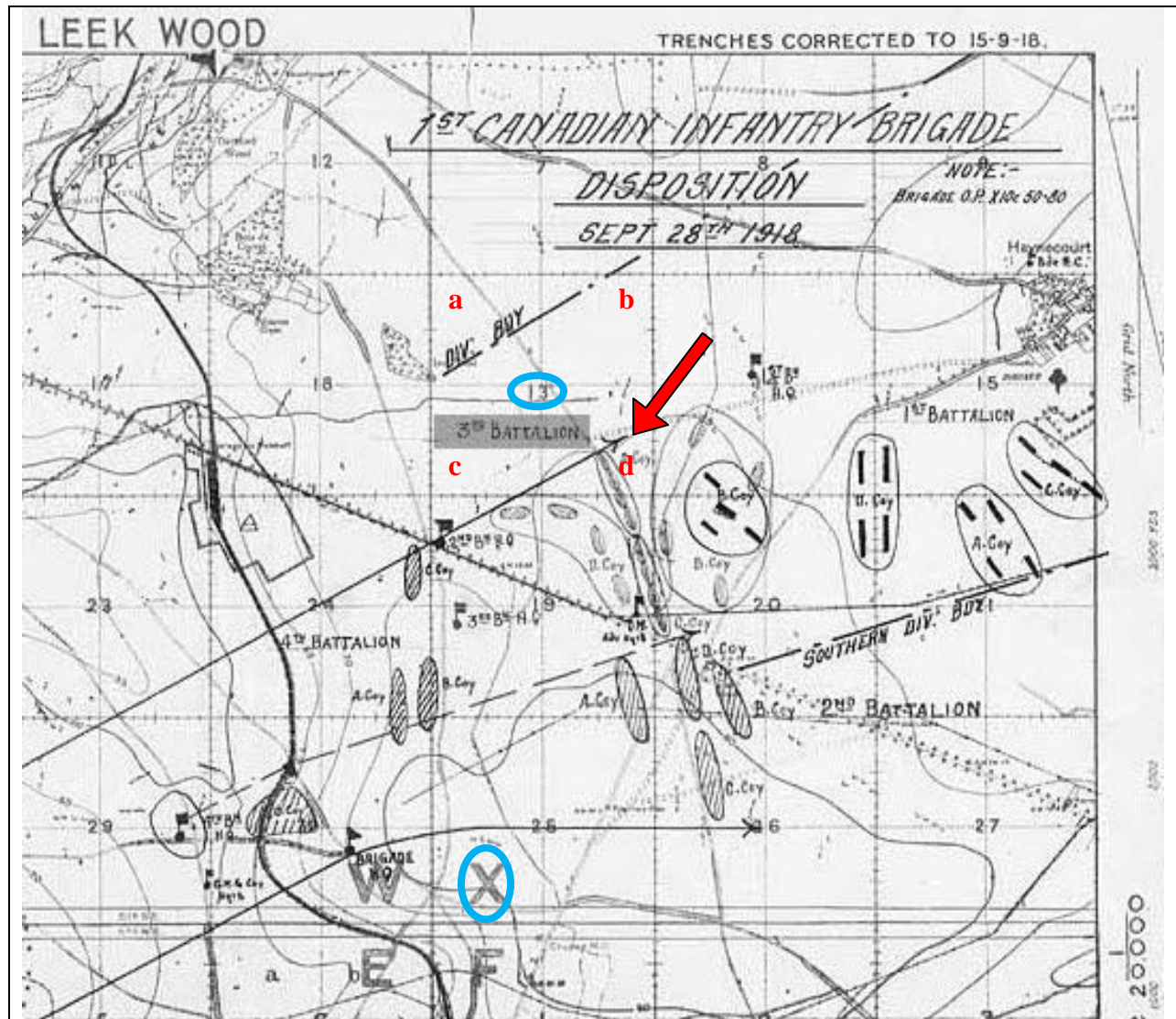
3rd Infantry Battalion and the Capture of Field Gun #9563 September 27, 1918 →

The Cambrai-Arras Road, Northwest of Raillencourt ↔

Operational Front Line on September 27, 1918 →

Main reference points to Raillencourt and Bourlon Wood →

MAP 5



Trench Map Extract of 3rd Battalion location taken from the War Diary of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade for September 28, 1918.

Library and Archives Canada, Extract of 1st Brigade War Diary of September 28th, 1918

<http://data2.collectionscanada.ca/e/e042/e001035271.jpg>

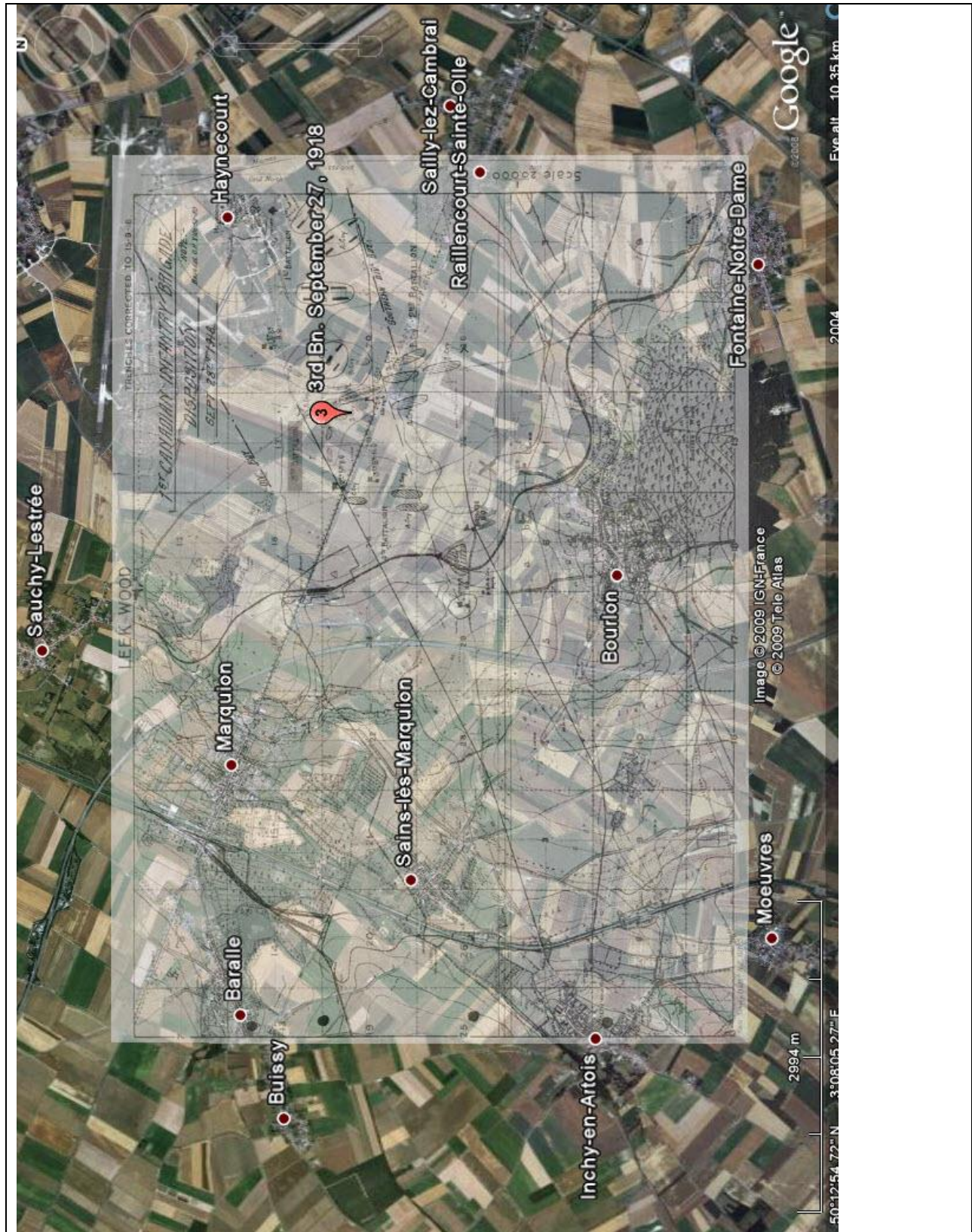
3rd Battalion shaded grey for demonstration purposes – not on original - points to 3rd Battalion →

Trench Map Interpretation:

Each large area of a Trench Map is shown by the large letter, as shown here for W, X, E and F. Those areas are then divided into four squares, each 1,000 yards by 1,000 yards, shown here for the upper area where the 3rd Battalion was located as in X13. That square is subdivided into quadrants "a, b, c and d". Grids are provided for each square. From this you can see the 3rd Battalion companies in the X13d square.

The complete Trench Map of this area, from which this extract was taken, is shown in the following image as a Google Overlay image on a modern day satellite view of this area of France.

MAP 6



Google Overlay Image of the Complete Trench Map of September 28, 1918 showing where the area would be located in modern day France by Laughton ¹³.

MAP 7



Extract of Nicholson Map 13, The Canal du Nord and Cambrai for the period of 27th to 11th, 1918.

Note path of 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion crossing the Red and Green Lines
Location of capture of Milton War Trophy #9563 on the Arras-Cambrai Road

